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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

A REPORT BY THE NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY PREPARED IN COORDINATION WITH THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

March | Wesley S. Noyes, Jr., Editor, Supervisor, Economic Analysis and Reports | 85-3

SUMMARY: Total unemployment in New Hampshire numbered 26,880 in March 1985, a decrease of 2,800 from February, but 3,020 more than a year ago. The unemployment rate was 5.2 percent, dropping one - half percent from the 5.7 February rate. A year ago the rate was 4.7 percent. Nationally, the rates were 7.5 percent in March, 7.8 percent in February, and 8.1 percent a year ago. The highest unemployment rate was in the unattached area with 8.5 percent. The Berlin and Salem areas were next with rates of 7.4 percent, each. The Claremont area recorded the lowest rate with 3.9 percent. Only the Nashua area recorded an increased unemployment rate during the period. Overall, some seasonal employment increases occurred in trade and construction. New stores, seasonal expansion in some eating and drinking places, and good weather conditions for construction activities were factors in the reduced unemployment picture. However, some manufacturing firms experienced production curtailments with some permanent and temporary layoffs resulting.

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment increased by 6,350 from February as manufacturing was down 750, but nonmanufacturing was up 7,100. Compared to a year ago, nonagricultural wage and salary employment increased by 32,150 workers as manufacturing is up 3,250 and nonmanufacturing 28,900. The largest manufacturing industrial gain occurred in machinery with an increase of 2,200. In nonmanufacturing, trade recorded the largest over the year gain with an increase of 16,300 jobs. It is important to point out that the footwear industry has suffered a loss of 2,400 jobs from the year ago level.

Manchester Economic Conditions: Total unemployment decreased slightly as the unemployment rate dropped from 4.3 to 4.2 percent. A year ago the rate was 3.7 percent. Nonagricultural wage and salary employment increased 550 from February, and is up 4,100 from the year ago level. Manufacturing increased by 500, while nonmanufacturing is up 3,600. The largest industrial gains over the year occurred in trade with an increase of 1,300, and in services with 1,200.

Nashua Economic Conditions: Total unemployment increased by 200 from February as the unemployment rate increased to 4.0 from 3.8 percent. Nonagricultural wage and salary employment increased by 550 from February, and is up 6,200 from the year ago level. Manufacturing increased 1,800, while nonmanufacturing increased 4,400. The largest industrial gain occurred in machinery and electrical products with an increase of 2,400 workers. In nonmanufacturing, trade and services each increased by 1,650 workers.

The monthly labor force and unemployment data for 1983, 1984 and the first two months of 1985 have been revised based on new area definitions. The Lawrence-Haverhill MA PMSA has been revised by the Massachusetts Division of Employment Security with approximately 7,000 more in the labor force. All the other areas in New Hampshire had to be decreased proportionately using the new data as the state total was not affected by the changes. Tables on labor force will be published in the next issue.

New Hampshire Labor Force, Total Employment and Unemployment and Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment as of the Middle of the Month

Industry	State					Manchester MSA					Nashua PMSA				
	Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous		Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous		Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous	
	March 1985	Feb. 1985	March 1984	Month	Year	March 1985	Feb. 1985	March 1984	Month	Year	March 1985	Feb. 1985	March 1984	Month	Year
1. Civilian labor force*	520,700	516,650	502,920	4,050	17,780	85,640	85,010	84,060	630	1,580	93,410	91,850	88,450	1,560	4,960
2. Unemployment	26,880	29,680	23,860	-2,800	3,020	3,560	3,640	3,130	-80	430	3,730	3,530	2,920	200	810
Percent of labor force	5.2	5.7	4.7	xxx	xxx	4.2	4.3	3.7	xxx	xxx	4.0	3.8	3.3	xxx	xxx
3. Employment total	493,820	486,970	479,060	6,850	14,760	82,080	81,370	80,930	710	1,150	89,680	88,320	85,530	1,360	4,150
4. Persons involved in labor disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nonagri. wage & salary**	460,650	454,300	428,500	6,350	32,150	77,450	76,900	73,350	550	4,100	82,650	82,100	76,450	550	6,200
Manufacturing	123,850	124,600	120,600	-750	3,250	15,700	15,650	15,200	50	500	37,450	37,600	35,650	-150	1,800
Durable goods	85,050	85,400	79,850	-350	5,200	9,050	9,100	8,600	-50	450	31,850	32,000	29,450	-150	2,400
Lumber & wood prods.	5,350	5,350	5,100	0	250										
Furniture & fixtures	1,450	1,300	1,450	150	0										
Stone & clay prods.	3,000	3,000	2,650	0	350										
Primary metal prods.	4,950	4,900	4,400	50	550										
Fabricated metal prods.	6,900	6,950	7,300	-50	-400										
Machinery (exc. elec.)	25,550	25,700	23,350	-150	2,200										
Electrical prods.	27,250	27,450	25,500	-200	1,750										
Miscellaneous prods.	2,150	2,150	2,000	0	150	5,750	5,750	5,400	0	350	24,700	24,800	22,300	-100	2,400
Other durables	8,450	8,600	8,100	-150	350	3,300	3,350	3,200	-50	100	7,150	7,200	7,150	-50	0
Nondurable goods	38,800	39,200	40,750	-400	-1,950	6,650	6,550	6,600	100	50	5,600	5,600	6,200	0	-600
Food & kindred prods.	3,150	3,150	2,900	0	250										
Textile mill prods.	4,100	4,100	4,150	0	-50										
Apparel	2,600	2,650	2,850	-50	-250	2,100	2,050	1,950	50	150					
Paper & allied prods.	5,550	5,600	5,400	-50	150										
Print., pub. & allied	6,800	6,850	6,550	-50	250										
Leather & lea. prods.	5,850	5,950	8,250	-100	-2,400										
Other nondurables	10,750	10,900	10,650	-150	100	4,550	4,500	4,650	50	-100					
Nonmanufacturing	336,800	329,700	307,900	7,100	28,900	61,750	61,250	58,150	500	3,600	45,200	44,500	40,800	700	4,400
Construction (inc. min.)	26,600	25,300	24,900	1,300	1,700	3,900	3,800	3,150	100	750	3,350	3,150	2,800	200	550
Trans., comm. & util.	15,000	14,800	14,950	200	50	4,700	4,650	4,800	50	-100	2,250	2,250	2,100	0	150
Trade	112,650	108,250	96,350	4,400	16,300	20,200	20,050	18,900	150	1,300	16,800	16,750	15,150	50	1,650
Fin., ins. & real estate	25,200	24,650	22,900	550	2,300	6,750	6,750	6,300	0	450	2,700	2,650	2,400	50	300
Service industry & other	92,950	92,550	86,100	400	6,850	18,650	18,450	17,450	200	1,200	14,400	14,000	12,750	400	1,650
Government	64,400	64,150	62,700	250	1,700	7,550	7,550	7,550	0	0	5,700	5,700	5,600	0	100
Federal	12,000	12,000	11,700	0	300	2,200	2,200	2,150	0	50	700	700	700	0	0
State	17,100	17,050	16,300	50	800	850	850	800	0	50	200	200	200	0	0
Local	35,300	35,100	34,700	200	600	4,500	4,500	4,600	0	-100	4,800	4,800	4,700	0	100

* By place of residence

** By place of establishment
Benchmark March 1984

Machinery And Electrical Products Combined

Labor Disputes:

Total Unemployment and Labor Force by Area and County

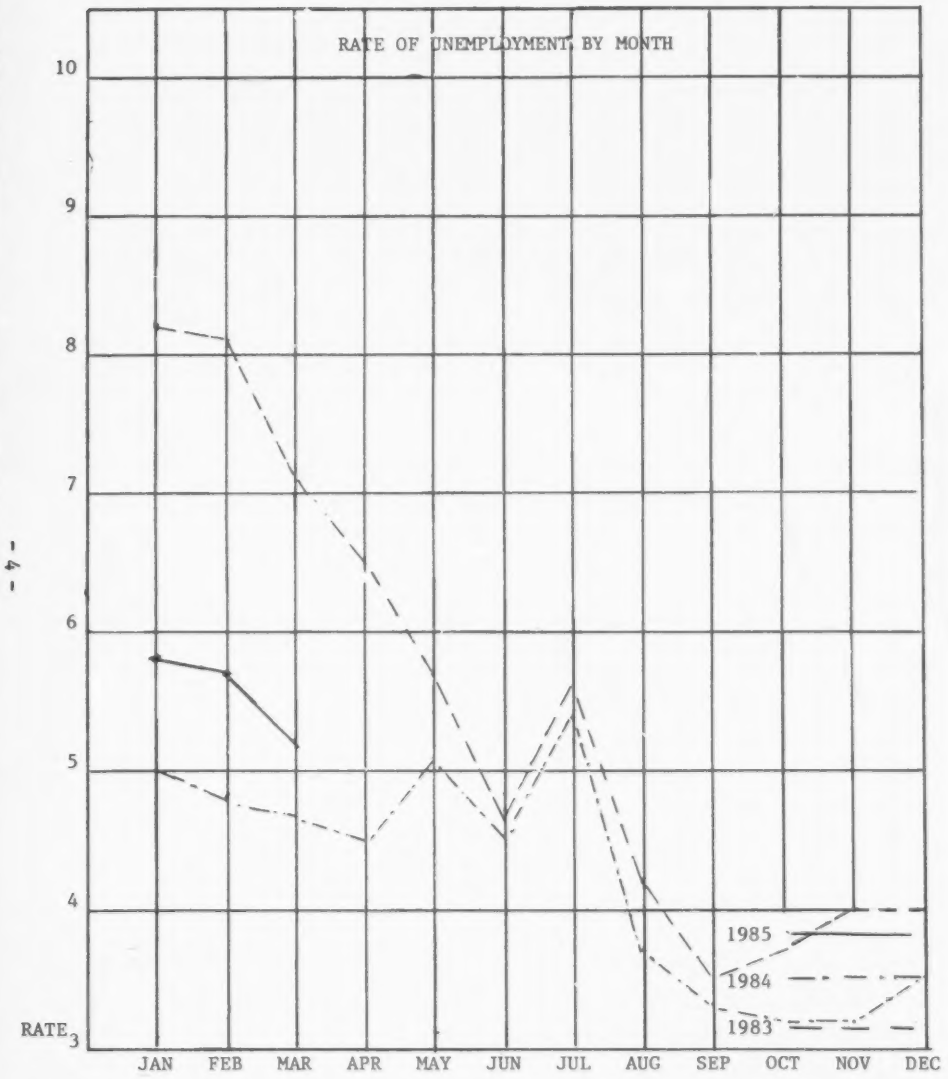
Area	Unemployment*						Numerical Change From Previous		Civilian Labor Force			Numerical Change From Previous	
	March 1985		February 1985		March 1984								
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Month	Year	March 1985	February 1985	March 1984	Month	Year
United States**	8,625	7.5	8,902	7.8	9,057	8.1	-277	-432	114,394	113,592	111,828	802	2,566
New Hampshire	26,880	5.2	29,680	5.7	23,860	4.7	-2,800	3,020	520,700	516,650	502,920	4,050	17,780
Area													
Berlin LMA	1,420	7.4	1,420	7.4	1,290	6.9	0	130	19,330	19,200	18,560	130	770
Claremont LMA	1,440	3.9	1,550	4.2	1,660	4.7	-110	-220	37,010	36,720	35,540	290	1,470
Concord LMA	1,980	4.4	2,090	4.7	2,020	4.7	-110	-40	44,730	44,550	43,320	180	1,410
Keene LMA	1,580	4.1	2,130	5.6	1,370	3.7	-550	210	38,010	37,780	36,580	230	1,430
Laconia LMA	2,600	5.9	2,670	6.1	2,170	5.1	-70	430	44,100	43,620	42,740	480	1,360
Littleton LMA	1,050	7.3	1,170	7.9	1,070	7.6	-120	-20	14,430	14,720	14,060	-290	370
Manchester MSA	3,560	4.2	3,640	4.3	3,130	3.7	-80	430	85,640	85,010	84,060	630	1,580
Nashua PMSA	3,730	4.0	3,530	3.8	2,920	3.3	200	810	93,410	91,850	88,450	1,560	4,960
N.H. Portion of Lawrence Haverhill MA. PMSA ***	3,400	7.4	3,430	7.6	2,630	5.8	-30	770	45,820	45,310	45,020	510	800
Portsmouth - Dover - Rochester N.H. - ME.	5,260	5.2	6,990	6.9	5,220	5.3	-1,730	40	101,260	101,700	98,200	-440	3,060
Unattached Estimating Area ****	1,240	8.5	1,440	10.2	1,000	7.4	-200	240	14,570	14,040	13,480	530	1,090
Town of Pelham (Part of Lowell MA - NH PMSA)	260	5.1	350	7.2	130	2.8	-90	130	5,080	4,910	4,570	170	510
County													
Belknap	1,590	7.0	1,600	7.1	1,140	5.2	-10	450	22,750	22,490	21,810	260	940
Carroll	750	5.6	840	6.3	760	5.8	-90	-10	13,470	13,390	13,090	80	380
Cheshire	1,470	4.3	1,940	5.7	1,310	4.0	-470	160	34,100	33,860	32,830	240	1,270
Coos	1,390	8.1	1,340	7.9	1,290	7.9	50	100	17,080	16,990	16,450	90	630
Grafton	1,690	4.9	1,850	5.4	1,670	5.0	-160	20	34,220	34,240	33,050	-20	1,170
Hillsborough	7,450	4.2	7,570	4.3	5,960	3.5	-120	1,490	177,110	174,740	169,920	2,370	7,190
Merrimack	2,390	4.4	2,530	4.6	2,510	4.7	-140	-120	54,830	54,550	53,370	280	1,460
Rockingham	6,050	5.9	6,710	6.6	5,500	5.5	-660	550	102,780	101,800	100,420	980	2,360
Strafford	3,250	7.2	4,420	9.7	2,720	6.2	-1,170	530	45,220	45,620	43,550	-400	1,670
Sullivan	850	4.4	880	4.7	1,000	5.4	-30	-150	19,140	18,970	18,430	170	710

* Based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics "43 Step Method" Handbook adjusted to the Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates.

** In thousands, not seasonally adjusted.

*** New Hampshire portion of the Lawrence-Haverhill, Massachusetts Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area which includes Salem and twelve small towns.

**** Includes twenty towns previously in either Dover, Portsmouth, Manchester or Nashua LMAS.



AREA DEFINITIONS

Manchester MSA includes the city of Manchester and towns of Allenstown, Auburn, Bedford, Candia, Goffstown, Hooksett.

Nashua PMSA is located in the southern section of Hillsborough County and includes the City of Nashua and the towns of Amherst, Brookline, Greenville, Hollis, Litchfield, Londonderry, Merrimack, Milford, Mont Vernon, and Wilton.

U. S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Item	1985	1984	1983	1982
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers				
Current month - March	315.3			
Percent change from year ago	4.0			
Year average		307.6	297.4	288.6
Percent increase each year		3.4	3.0	6.0
All Urban Consumers				
Current month - March	318.8			
Percent change from year ago	3.7			
Year average		311.1	298.4	289.1
Percent increase each year		4.3	3.2	6.1

New Hampshire

FIRMS BY SIZE -- UNIT, EMPLOYEES AND WAGES -- AUGUST 1984
Department of Employment Security
Economic Analysis & Reports

Based on Unemployment Compensation Coverage

All Industries 1972 SIC

Employee-size grouping	Units		Employees		Total Wages Third Quarter 1984	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Amount	Percent
Total	24,398	100.0	394,764	100.0	$1,510,350,410	100.0
1 - 3	10,508	43.06	18,863	4.77	72,404,820	4.79
4	1,905	7.80	7,620	1.93	24,259,304	1.60
5	1,503	6.16	7,515	1.90	24,676,911	1.63
6	1,148	4.70	6,888	1.74	22,242,316	1.47
7	906	3.71	6,342	1.60	20,663,323	1.36
8	754	3.09	6,032	1.52	21,225,109	1.40
9	631	2.58	5,679	1.43	19,222,875	1.27
10 - 19	2,971	12.17	39,814	10.08	133,391,735	8.83
20 - 49	1,963	8.04	59,015	14.94	198,965,321	13.17
50 - 99	693	2.84	47,116	11.93	161,800,932	10.71
100 - 249	409	1.67	61,903	15.68	229,098,167	15.16
250 - 499	106	0.43	34,974	8.85	130,556,025	8.64
500 - 999	53	0.21	37,618	9.52	143,800,821	9.52
1,000 & over	29	0.11	55,385	14.02	304,792,745	20.18
No employment in August and wages in quarter	819	3.35			3,250,000	0.21

Note: Total Wages may not add due to rounding.
Percent do not add due to rounding.

Comments: Employment increased 7.7 percent or 28,359 workers from August 1983. Such a substantial increase is evidence of the strong economic growth that New Hampshire experienced during the report period. Manufacturing gained 9,802 workers for an increase of 8.5 percent. Trade was up 11,288 workers, or 11.4 percent, while services increased by 6,355 workers, or 7.3 percent. Construction decreased during the report period by 1,444 workers, or 5.1 percent; due primarily to the significantly reduced workforce at the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant.

Firms employing less than 100 workers accounted for 51.8 percent of all workers, and 94 percent of the total number of firms. This compares very closely to the same period a year ago when firms employing less than 100 workers represented 51.5 percent of all workers, and 94 percent of the total number of firms.

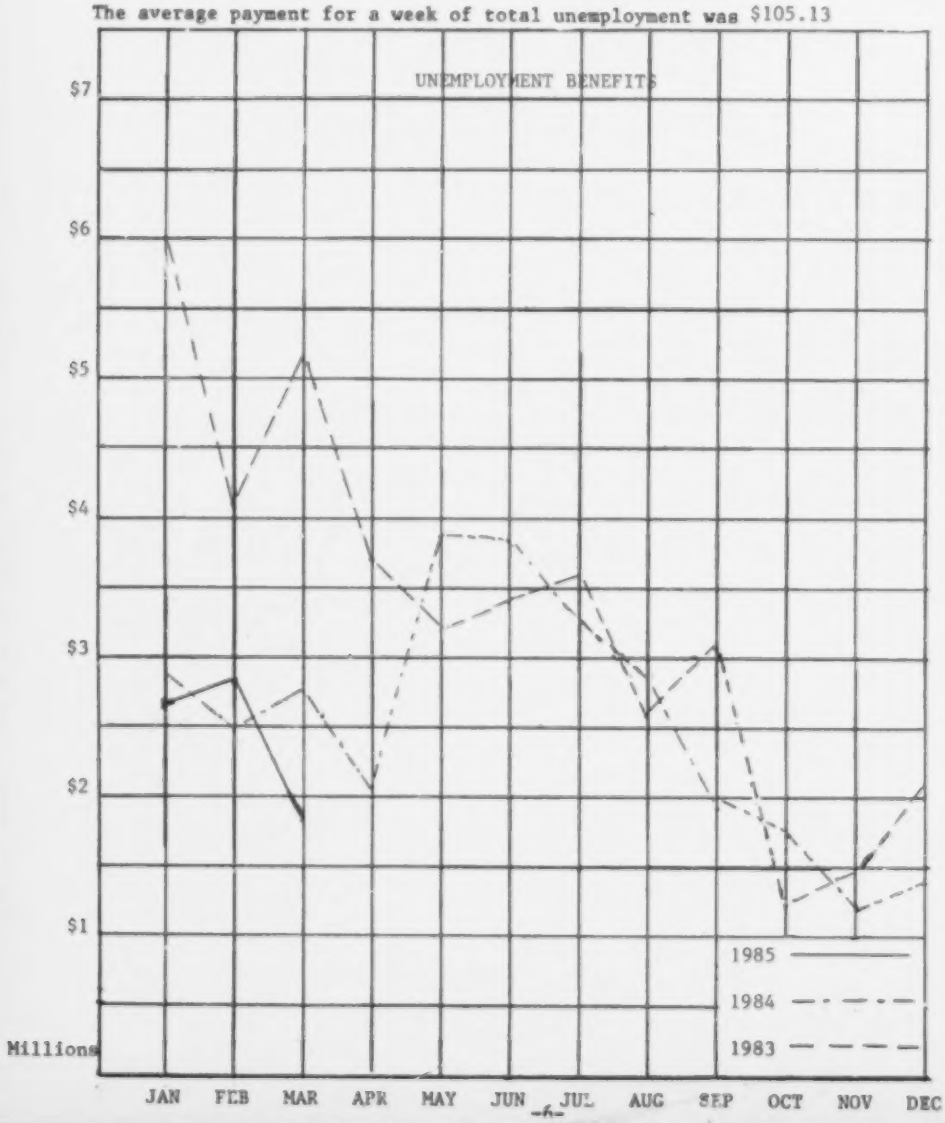
Total wages paid of $1,510 million in the third quarter of 1984 represented a gain of 8.4 percent from the same period a year ago. Manufacturing accounted for 39.7 percent of the total private industry wages which trade and services combined represented 40.7 percent.

It should be noted that total manufacturing wages increased by 14.1 percent to reach $599 million. Wages in trade increased 12.5 percent, while services gained 10.0 percent. Due to the situation at the Seabrook Nuclear Power Project construction wages dropped by 23.3 percent during the period.

Weekly Claims Filed During March 1985
Classified by Local Office

Area	Unemployment Compensation		U.C. State Workers (Only)		UC Local Government		Servicemen UCX (Only)		U.C. Federal Employees No UI	
	Init.	Cont.	Int.	Cont.	Init.	Cont.	Int.	Cont.	Init.	Cont.
All Offices	3,642	19,701	10	51	2	30	32	144	12	61
Berlin	217	1,073	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	3
Claremont	211	715	0	3	0	2	1	7	0	0
Concord	300	1,518	2	18	0	1	5	8	1	4
Conway	103	406	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	8
Dover	595	4,247	1	2	0	3	6	49	2	4
Keene	141	1,182	0	6	1	5	1	12	0	8
Laconia	296	1,712	1	12	0	11	3	10	0	5
Lebanon	74	439	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	5
Littleton	211	893	0	0	0	1	0	6	0	0
Manchester	626	2,747	2	0	0	2	5	12	2	7
Nashua	318	1,130	0	2	0	0	1	2	0	0
Portsmouth	247	1,520	2	7	0	1	5	18	2	4
Salem	90	493	0	0	0	4	4	1	0	0
Liable Interstate	213	1,626	2	1	1	0	0	4	3	13

The average payment for a week of total unemployment was $105.13



Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance End of Month

$91,243,291.13

Net contributions received during month:

$ 60,076.50

Net benefits paid during month:

$ 1,846,547.06

Interest Received:

0

AVERAGE EARNINGS AND HOURS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

New Hampshire

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	March 1985	Feb. 1985	March 1984	March 1985	Feb. 1985	March 1984	March 1985	Feb. 1985	March 1984
All manufacturing	$334.14	$330.47	$311.58	40.6	40.4	40.1	$8.23	$8.18	$7.77
Durable goods	348.09	345.63	328.02	41.0	41.0	40.9	8.49	8.43	8.02
Lumber & wood prods.	257.75	254.63	234.55	39.9	39.6	38.2	6.46	6.43	6.14
Furniture & fixtures	261.67	272.14	255.43	38.2	39.1	36.7	6.85	6.96	6.96
Stone & clay prods.	322.00	322.60	298.49	40.3	41.2	40.5	7.99	7.83	7.37
Primary metal prods.	376.25	357.00	358.97	43.0	42.5	44.1	8.75	8.40	8.14
Fab. metal prods.	309.66	308.40	292.99	39.7	40.0	38.5	7.80	7.71	7.61
Mach. (exc. elec.)	380.09	379.26	375.40	42.9	43.0	43.6	8.86	8.82	8.61
Electrical prods.	361.89	357.59	326.76	39.9	39.6	39.8	9.07	9.03	8.21
Miscellaneous prods.	245.55	242.06	254.49	39.1	38.3	42.7	6.28	6.32	5.96
Other durables	366.30	362.46	351.85	42.2	42.0	41.2	8.68	8.63	8.54
Nondurable goods	305.66	301.43	281.39	39.8	39.3	38.6	7.68	7.67	7.29
Food & kindred prods.	370.78	357.87	373.70	40.7	39.5	40.4	9.11	9.06	9.25
Textile mill prods.	274.40	270.18	260.90	40.0	39.5	40.2	6.86	6.84	6.49
Apparel	215.07	204.98	190.50	37.6	36.8	34.7	5.72	5.57	5.49
Paper & allied prods.	428.64	421.69	417.14	45.6	45.1	46.4	9.40	9.35	8.99
Print., pub. & allied	306.15	315.62	305.60	39.1	39.7	40.4	7.83	7.95	7.64
Leather & lea. prods.	188.91	182.93	169.06	34.1	33.2	31.6	5.54	5.51	5.35
Footwear	173.64	167.64	156.97	33.2	32.3	30.9	5.23	5.19	5.08
Other nondurables	334.15	329.66	311.18	40.9	40.4	40.1	8.17	8.16	7.76

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 57%

Total Production Workers: 87,150

Firms Reporting: 346

Manchester MSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	March 1985	Feb. 1985	March 1984	March 1985	Feb. 1985	March 1984	March 1985	Feb. 1985	March 1984
All manufacturing	$316.81	$314.02	$292.14	39.7	39.4	38.9	$7.98	$7.97	$7.51
Durable goods	350.27	347.04	308.44	40.4	40.4	38.7	8.67	8.59	7.97
Mach. & elec. prods.	357.62	352.23	310.40	41.2	41.1	38.8	8.68	8.57	8.00
Other durables	337.82	337.51	305.71	39.1	39.2	38.6	8.64	8.61	7.92
Nondurable goods	273.54	270.84	272.53	38.8	38.2	39.1	7.05	7.09	6.97
Textiles & apparel	267.59	260.17	244.97	40.3	39.6	38.7	6.64	6.57	6.33
Other nondurables	276.57	275.61	284.20	38.2	37.6	39.2	7.24	7.33	7.25

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 55%

Total Production Workers: 11,650

Firms Reporting: 43

Nashua PMSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	March 1985	Feb. 1985	March 1984	March 1985	Feb. 1985	March 1984	March 1985	Feb. 1985	March 1984
All manufacturing	$397.07	$397.31	$375.77	40.6	40.5	40.8	$9.78	$9.81	$9.21
Durable goods	401.23	401.06	379.45	40.9	40.8	41.2	9.81	9.83	9.21
Mach. & elec. prods.	422.28	423.74	406.55	39.8	39.9	40.9	10.61	10.62	9.94
Other durables	341.82	339.39	310.57	43.6	43.4	41.8	7.84	7.82	7.43
Nondurable goods	380.95	378.89	360.50	39.6	38.9	39.1	9.62	9.74	9.22

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 69%

Total Production Workers: 21,550

Firms Reporting: 62

Number of Active Applicants and Female Applicants by Major Occupational Category
Period Ending March 1985

	NEW HAMPSHIRE		MANCHESTER		NASHUA	
	Total	Female	Total	Female	Total	Female
TOTAL	13,683	5,866	2,301	927	1,528	621
Prof., Tech. (00-16)	1,126	425	124	25	159	29
Managerial (18,19)	561	202	155	65	118	57
Clerical (20-24)	2,160	1,760	341	277	233	169
Sales (25-29)	635	277	136	45	51	20
Services (3)	1,958	1,128	349	191	125	57
Farm (4)	178	36	19	2	10	4
Processing (5)	272	92	48	16	49	16
Machine Trade (6)	1,342	502	185	64	114	22
Benchwork (7)	1,554	1,057	253	164	312	188
Structural (8)	2,327	81	390	10	196	13
Miscellaneous (9)	1,497	268	279	54	156	42
Unclassified	73	38	22	14	5	4

Employment Service Activity

ITEM	March 1985	February 1985	July 1, 1984 to January 31, 1985
Total applicants for employment	3,320	4,028	28,701
Total nonagricultural job openings received	2,012	1,972	21,733
Job openings unfilled end of month	1,573	1,527	xxx
Placements - nonagricultural & agricultural	1,035	922	10,510

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
32 SOUTH MAIN STREET
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